

Sinclair Broadcasting's decision to force their stations to air an anti-Kerry documentary days before the election is a clear example of the dangers of media consolidation.

Sinclair uses the public airwaves free of charge, and is obligated by law to serve the public interest. But when large companies control the airwaves, we get more of what's good for the bottom line and less of what we need for our democracy. Instead of something produced at "News Central" far away, it's more important that we see real people from our own communities and more substantive news about issues that matter.

Sinclair's actions show why we need to strengthen media ownership rules, not weaken them. They show why the license renewal process needs to involve more than a returned postcard.

Actually, This letter reflects my sentiments. I paid attention to the FCC media deregulation hearings and was so disappointed when after Congress rolled back the percent of ownership allowed by one corporation, an amendment to an unrelated bill allowed 39% ownership. Of course this grandfathered the companies that were breaking the law by owning 39% when the law allowed 35%. Despicable. THIS SINCLAIR MANIPULATION OF THE MEDIA EXEMPLIFIES THE ABUSES RESULTING FROM MEDIA CONSOLIDATION. Thank you. Harriet Thurstlic